AV 4 IT-US

107439

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR DEC 22 7 24 PM '66

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ACTION: Amembassy ROME

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STATE 107439

CIVAIR. REF Rome 3321. AV 4 IT-US

1. Although Dept willing make efforts to meet reasonable Italian preferences in negotiations, Dept believes tactically unwise appear to be too accommodating. Such posture inconsistent with fact Italians denounced Agreement and should make some effort meet USG views regarding procedural arrangements. GOI rejected earlier USG suggestions for Capomazza visit Washington or Loy visit Rome in November and beginning of formal negotiations has been delayed largely to meet GOI wishes.

2. Dept also concerned that arrangements should be altered because of Santini's petulance over Washington 1964 meeting. Might be useful for Embassy point out to Capomazza that in November 1965 in Rome Santini abruptly terminated US-Italian consultations without even honoring closing amenities. USG officials even delayed departure from Rome for several days to see if talks might be resumed but Santini refused make further effort.

3. Believe desirable in present circumstances Embassy propose that preliminary session be held January 12-13 on basis already agreed to. Time and site subsequent meetings can be arranged by Loy-Minetti-Capomazza-Santini at that time.

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Please advise soonest if this acceptable to Capomazza.

4. USG considers difficult and undesirable to try to fuse preliminary and first formal session into one unit. Preliminary discussion as earlier agreed is to be informal non-negotiating meeting. USG officials would not have necessary official instructions for negotiating at that meeting. USG would probably need 4 weeks between preliminary and formal sessions to finalize USG position.

5. FYI Dept fully aware desirability helping Capomazza handle Santini. For this reason/preliminary session Loy may agree hold first negotiating session in Rome at sometime in February. However, in view normal practice of alternating sessions between two capitals, USG agreement to hold both sessions in Rome would then be in nature of concession on USG part to help Capomazza meet internal difficulties. END FYI.

END

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